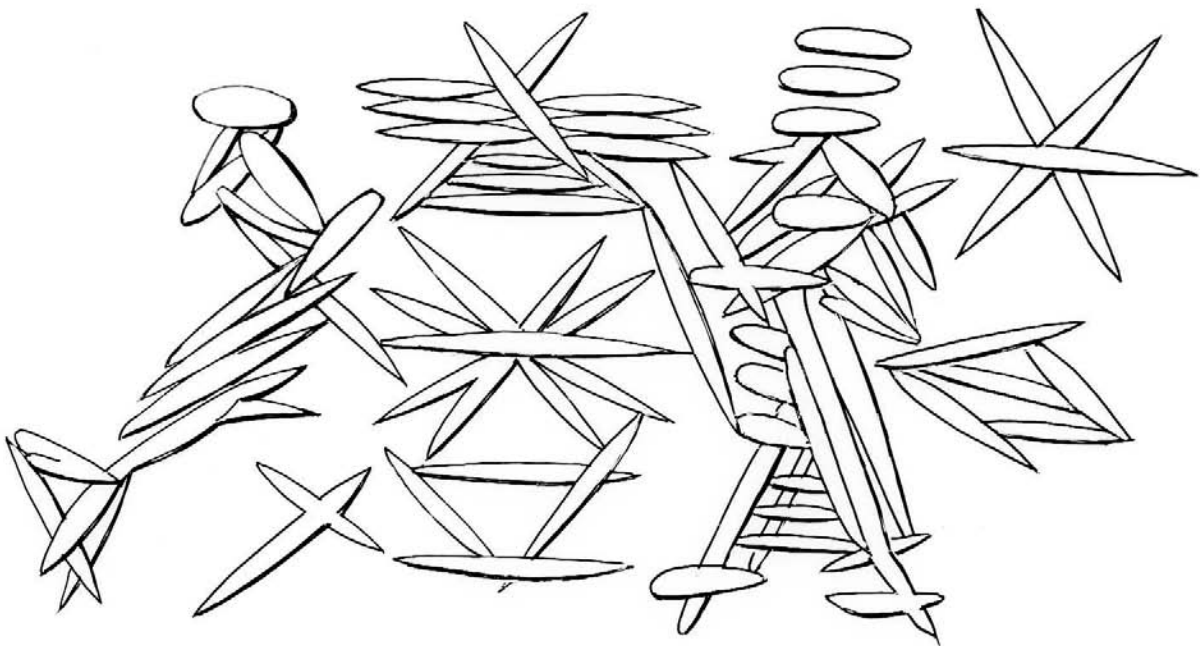


**BRITISH SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY  
IN IRAQ**

**NEWSLETTER NO. 20**

**November 2007**



BRITISH SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN IRAQ  
(GERTRUDE BELL MEMORIAL)

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 219948

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The next BSAI Newsletter will be published in May 2008 and brief contributions are welcomed on recent research, publications and events. All contributions should be sent to the BSAI by post or e-mail to [bsai@britac.ac.uk](mailto:bsai@britac.ac.uk) to arrive by April 15, 2008. Joan Porter MacIver edits the BSAI Newsletter.

Cover Drawings: Late 7th Century BC seal impression from the BSAI Nimrud Excavations 1955-58. 'Winged disc flanked by a fish man, *apkalle*, on the left and a genius on the right'. Drawing by Tessa Rickards

The British School of Archaeology in Iraq was founded seventy-five years ago to ‘encourage, support and undertake the study of and research relating to the archaeology of Iraq and neighbouring countries, including excavation’ and the appeal was headed by Major-General Sir Percy Cox, who became the first President of the School. The appeal funds augmented the legacies of Gertrude Bell and her father Sir Hugh Bell. The founders of the school were in a financial plight somewhat similar to ours today– the new entity ‘could only commence operations on a limited scale’<sup>1</sup> but they did not let that deter them and the BSAI was founded on 14 January 1932.

In the light of our current and future funding position, the Council of the School has undertaken a fundamental review of all aspects of our situation. We now propose some changes which we view as positive and likely to lead the School into a productive new era. In recent years we have already approved the broadening of our remit academically and have extended the scope of our research from ancient times to the present. We now propose to our membership a change of the BSAI’s name to the ‘British Institute for the Study of Iraq (Gertrude Bell Memorial)’ in order more accurately to indicate our still expanding remit. We look to our members and to the broader academic community concerned with Iraq to help us in moving towards this goal. At our Annual General Meeting on 12 December 2007, members will be asked to vote on the name change and on the new regulations (available on our website or a hard copy may be requested from the BSAI Administrator). The change of name and the new regulations have been submitted to the Charity Commission for its approval, which has been received. In order to ensure that all members can attend, we have arranged to hold the AGM and my lecture on “Mesopotamian Discovery: 75 years of the British School of Archaeology in Iraq” in a larger lecture hall at UCL (See details on p.25).

As Chairman, I am confident that we are heading in the right direction if, as Council has agreed, we wish to maintain and indeed enhance our currently fragile position within the British Academy funding regime, as well as to align ourselves more productively with developments in academe more broadly in the UK and beyond. Meetings with colleagues within the British Academy continue to encourage us to make the changes to be put before our membership shortly. Of course, the archaeology and ancient languages of Iraq and neighbouring regions will continue to hold a crucial position within our academic scheme. Additionally, we feel that Iraq deserves serious study in many other fields within the arts, humanities and social sciences, and clearly the study of the current situation in and around Iraq is also of paramount importance. We believe that Gertrude Bell would have thoroughly approved of this broadening remit and we hope our members will too. More details of our past performance and plans are included in the BSAI’s YE 2007 Annual Report, which is sent out with this newsletter and which will also be available on our website.

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<sup>1</sup> British School of Archaeology in Iraq (Gertrude Bell Memorial) Appeal Fund Report and Accounts and Notice of General Meeting, 7 December 1931 p. 6

The Journal *Iraq* will remain a core part of the purpose and output of the School but in order to ensure that we are able to provide contemporary academic coverage, we have made arrangements with the editors of the *International Journal of Contemporary Iraqi Studies* (IJCIS) to provide this journal at a small discount to BSAI members. The review of our purposes and finances has also led us to the conclusion that unfortunately we must raise our membership fees to cover our costs more fully (more details are provided in our membership letter). Another reason for these fee changes is to enable all members to join as full voting members with the option to choose the journal(s) of their choice: *Iraq* and/or the *International Journal of Contemporary Iraqi Studies*.

I am very pleased to report that Professor Khalid Salim Ismael, head of the Department of Cuneiform Studies of the University of Mosul, spent three very successful months (May-July) in the UK under our auspices conducting research. He was also privileged to take part in the British Museum's International Curatorial Training Programme. His report on his time in the UK can be read on p. 15. Professor Nicholas Postgate was his academic sponsor at the University of Cambridge and Wolfson College, Cambridge granted him Visiting Scholar status, which proved invaluable. While he was in the UK we arranged a special visit with Ann Clwyd MP and Professor Ismael had a tour of the Houses of Parliament with Dr Lamia Al Gailani Werr and our Administrator, Joan Porter MacIver.

The process of getting Iraqi academics into the UK is difficult and we hope that our future scholars may be able to come without too many problems. We have two or three scholars lined up for our scholarship programme over the coming year. The BSAI Appeal is continuing under Dr Crawford's guidance as Acting Appeal Chairman and two special appeal events have been arranged: Rory Stewart will speak in December about 'My time in governing Iraq' at the British Academy and William Dalrymple will speak next June at the British Museum. Our appeal funds enable us to provide assistance to Iraqi academics via the scholarship programme and to send books and supplies to Iraq. The BSAI is very grateful to all its appeal supporters, corporate and individual. These activities with our Iraqi colleagues remain an important aspect of our current work.

The BSAI will be participating along with the other BASIS-sponsored institutes and societies in the British Academy's 'Evolving Societies' showcase at the Barbican Centre in mid-November. Professor Alastair Northedge will represent the BSAI and talk on '*Rescuing Islamic urbanism: Samarra and the Caliphs*'. We are currently reprinting Professor Northedge's *Historical Topography of Samarra* Vol. 1 (2005) in a paperback version with the addition of a preface, as the first print run is already out of print. In 2007 Samarra archaeological city was inscribed both on UNESCO's World Heritage List and on the UNESCO List of World Heritage in Danger. We are sponsoring an exploratory meeting for the 'Samarra finds' project in London

in November. This project will bring together all the Samarra finds, which are dispersed in a number of different museum collections, in digital form through the creation of a database. Christopher Konrad (Berlin), Fatma Dahmani (Paris), Alastair Northedge (Paris) and Marian Rosser Owen (V & A) will attend the meeting sponsored by Venetia Porter at the British Museum, along with other British Museum colleagues and Eleanor Robson (Chair of our research committee)

I look forward to working with the Council, the British Academy, you as our members and the wider academic community to broaden and strengthen the work of the School (Institute!?) and to ensure that we foster a broad range of research on Iraq and neighbouring countries and that we promote interest in the rich heritage of Iraq and the region.

*Roger Matthews, BSAI Chairman*

## **BSAI GRANT REPORT:**

### **Tell Brak 2007 Final Report**

The 2007 excavations at Tell Brak took place from 21 March through 14 May. The objectives during this season were exploration of the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BC levels on the site, some of its earliest and latest occupations. We also aimed to explore and save from destruction one of the small tells in the Outer Town at Brak, where an important mass burial of the early-mid 4<sup>th</sup> millennium BC had been exposed by modern construction and is in danger of further damage.

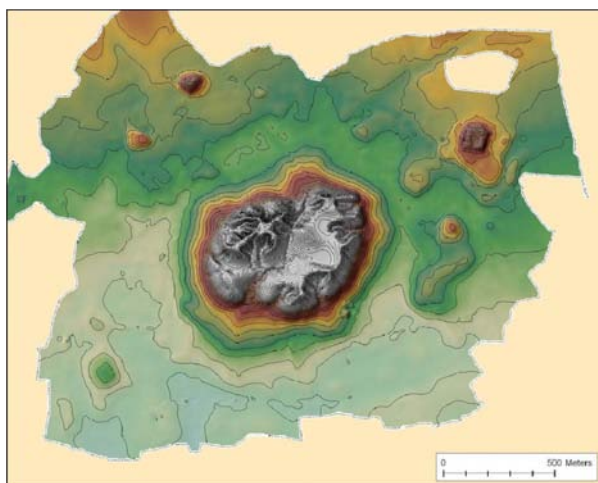


Fig. 1: Topographic map of Tell Brak

#### *Area TW*

This area has been excavated since 1991 and still presents the best opportunity to investigate some of the earliest occupational levels at Brak. The primary results were the linking of the Monumental Building of Level 20 (excavated from 1997 through 2004) to an area of industrial features and smaller structures to its west, plus the articulation of a further Level 21 below

this. Both levels belong early in the Late Chalcolithic sequence, LC 2-3, or late 5<sup>th</sup>-very early 4<sup>th</sup> millennia BC.

The western part of Level 20 had been partially excavated in previous seasons and comprised at least two small buildings, one with several rooms and a courtyard adjacent to the Monumental Building, the second a less regular set of rooms further west. An alley ran past both buildings on their northern facades and towards the courtyard at the front of the Monumental Building. On the northern side of this alley was an additional small structure or complex of small rooms. Two large domed ovens and several smaller cylindrical ovens were associated with this level, and much of the western area of the trench is characterized by ash dump layers rich in animal bones and lithics. The pottery includes LC 2 types and Gawra fine-ware, and a small range of clay sealings with lion and snake motifs was recovered. One particularly intriguing find was that of a large “spectacle idol”, broken and reused in a wall foundation. The area presents an interesting mixture of an imposing public structure possibly involved in regional administration, as well as an area of industrial production.



Fig. 2: Area TW, Level 20

Level 21 has several irregular mud-brick and pisé structures but was dominated by ash pits and domed ovens. Material culture included Gawra-style impressed fine-ware sherds and channel-rim bowls (early LC 2), beads in frit and stone, and occasional clay and stone tokens and animal figurines. The obsidian and chert chipped stone tools both appear to have been derived from a variety of sources, unlike the Level 20 tools, which preliminary examination indicates may have been dominated by obsidian from the Nemrut Dag source in Anatolia. The seal impressions from Level 21 were a departure in style from the level above, with at least six impressions of the same seal, an oval with a motif of a equid mare and foal. This seal was impressed on small disc sealings from boxes or other containers. The archaeo-botanical samples from Level 21 included large proportions of lentils and barley.

Nine child burials were excavated in TW during 2007, six from Level 20, and three from Level 21. All except one were children between the ages

of 9 months and 2 years of age and produced no grave goods. The grave pits were invariably cut against the faces of walls, into doorways and into ovens. The single unusual burial was cut into an oven in a late sub-phase within Level 21 and contained approximately 2500 shell beads, most probably stitched onto cloth in long straight lines (see Fig. 3). It also had a necklace of obsidian, soapstone and dentalium shell beads, with two mother-of-pearl pendants.



Fig. 3: Child Burial in Area TW Level 21, with bead ornaments

### *Tell Majnuna*

This outlying tell on the northwest edge of the Outer Town of Brak was first identified and sounded by Mallowan during his 1930s excavations. During the Brak Suburban Survey (2003 - 2005), intensive surface sherd sampling took place on Majnuna as well as other outlying tells. It appeared from the surface sherds that Majnuna had been established in the Late Chalcolithic 2 (late 5<sup>th</sup>-early 4<sup>th</sup> millennia BC), as part of Brak's urban expansion. Ceramics of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC also appeared sparsely. In the autumn of 2006, the survey team's attention was drawn to this area because an extension of the local grain storage area involved cutting a bulldozer trench around the perimeter of the visible mound. Unfortunately, this trench cut into ancient occupational levels, which lie at or near the modern plain level in that location. Most important was an area at the west side of the mound, where the spoil heap from the trench and the trench section both revealed a thick deposit of human and animal bones, among large quantities of Late Chalcolithic ceramics, seal impressions and other objects. At the northeast edge of the mound, a further trench cut through a dense layer of Late Chalcolithic sherds, and there appeared to be individual burials associated with this layer. In northern Mesopotamia in general for the late 5<sup>th</sup>-early 4<sup>th</sup> millennia BC, there are very few adult burials represented in excavations, although burials of children less than 4 years old are relatively common (as in Area TW). Thus these two episodes of burials appeared to offer an excellent opportunity to recover a unique sample of burial practices for the adult human population in the region.



Five separate excavations and soundings were made at Majnuna in 2007, three on the mounded area of the site (Areas EM, EMS and EME) and two more just off the mound, adjacent to the modern trenches (Areas MTW and MTE, respectively to west and east). The material recovered in Areas EM, EMS and MTW, at the west of Majnuna, all can be dated to roughly the middle of the Late Chalcolithic sequence, LC 3, while materials from EME and MTE on the east are slightly later, although still within the LC 3 phase. This will need further investigation in future but may indicate that the tell expanded gradually from southwest to northeast.

Area MTW investigated the dense bone layer at the west edge of the tell. It was a 3 x 15 meter trench, perpendicular to the modern trench. Above the bone layer visible in the modern trench section was a series of large shallow pits, many also containing large quantities of pottery and animal bones. The layers of human and animal bones below these extended only approximately one meter north of the edge of the modern bulldozer trench, and this appears to be the northern limit of the bone pile, which surely continues under the current road past the mound. The human bones are a mixture of partially articulated skeletons and disarticulated elements, while the animal bones are mostly single large pieces (see Fig. 4) overlying the human bones. They rested on a dense layer of flat-lying pottery sherds, which in turn rested on a clean grey layer above “natural” virgin soil, a reddish layer with no cultural material. Analysis of the human remains is ongoing, but preliminary results suggest a “death population” of young to middle-aged adults, not the normal death population we expect from natural causes. The minimum number of individuals analysed thus far from MTW is c 45. Warfare is the most likely explanation for the sudden simultaneous death of so many individuals. There is some evidence of carnivore damage here and in Area EM (see below); this plus the degree of disarticulation suggests that the skeletons had been left exposed for some time before being collected and moved to Majnuna for disposal or burial.



Fig. 4: Dense bone layer in Area MTW

Area EM was situated north and east of MTW and upslope. We wished to explore what we hoped would be architectural remains at the edge of



Majnuna, in stratigraphic relationship to the mass burial of MTW. However, the deposits in Area EM were entirely thick sloping layers of ash with large quantities of pottery, bones and other rubbish. There were at least 3.5 meters of these rubbish layers above evidence of yet another mass burial event, similar to that in MTW. This consisted of a comparable dense layer of human and animal bones. Unlike MTW, there was less pottery associated with this event, although clay container sealings and other small objects were recovered. Clusters of long bones were identifiable within the layer, as if they had been transported to the location by the “armload”, or in some kind of large container. The minimum number of individuals from this pit, thus far, is 28.

Area EMS was another trench designed to explore the architecture and stratigraphic sequence of Majnuna. It was located to intersect with an area of mud-brick visible in a mound section created in the spring of 2006 by the partial bulldozing of the Majnuna tell for agriculture. The brick area was explored and identified as a circular structure c 2.5-3 meters in diameter, preserved to over 2 meters in height; the walls were plastered inside and out and it was probably a storage silo for grain or similar materials. The latest sherds belong to the Assyrian/ Post-Assyrian Period, including a saucer lamp and carinated bowls. A fragmentary “Hand of Ishtar” confirms the late date. The silo had been built underground, into a circular pit cut into layers of Late Chalcolithic rubbish and ash similar to that in Area EM to its northwest. Here also was found further evidence of a third mass burial event, although at a far smaller scale than in Areas MTW and EM. Within the rubbish layers, there was a cluster of mostly human bones, mixed with some animal bones, all completely disarticulated. As in Area EM, the long bones were grouped together and the skulls were around the edge of the cluster, which was itself roughly oval, as if it had been contained in a large bag or sack (See Fig. 5).



Fig. 5: Bone pile in Area EM

Area EME was the final excavation area on the mound, also located in order to explore an area of mud-brick visible in the road section. The upper phase in this trench had a single poorly-preserved mud-brick wall, dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BC, to judge from preliminary analysis of the associated pottery. Below this was a thick layer (more than one meter deep) of fine ash and lenses of reddish material, surrounding the area of mud-brick which had drawn our attention to this location. This brick proved to be a pile of brick

rubble rather than a constructed wall. The lack of built architectural features on Majnuna is unusual (although it must be admitted we have excavated only very small areas thus far); we are tentatively hypothesizing that much of this tell may be rubbish from the mounded area of the site or houses within the Outer Town.

Within the ash layer to west and north of the bricks in Area EME were fifteen skeletons, all still articulated but in rather poor condition. Most were adults, ranging from ca. 20 through 45, and were buried with respect to each other, without overlapping; they appear to have been placed in very shallow pits (see Fig. 6). The lack of overlap, despite close proximity, implies that the burials were roughly contemporary. As in the areas with mixed mass burials, the ages represented among the skeletons are not a “normal” death population, containing too many young to middle-aged adults and too few young children or older adults. The contemporaneity of the burials and the ages represented indicate death through a catastrophic event such as war or conflict. However, the date of the burials appears slightly later than that of the mass burials in MTW, EM and EMS.



Fig. 6: Burials in Area EME

Finally, Area MTE at the northeast edge of the mound was placed to investigate the dense sherd layer and possible individual burials. This excavation also presented sloping layers of ash and rubbish, with a particularly large and varied selection of clay sealings, as well as Late Chalcolithic 3-4 pottery. Again, no architectural features appeared. The individual burials seen in the modern trench section proved to be much later than the sherd midden, probably within the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC.

Approximately 300 clay container sealings were recovered from Majnuna, including sealings from jars, woven baskets, coiled baskets in two different sizes and reed boxes. The 300 sealings include only 7 repeated scenes, i.e., over 290 unique images. The majority of motifs involved lions attacking gazelles or goats, but this was supplemented by an intriguing range of images, including flowers, lion herds, geometrics, single lions, hybrid goat-

man and goat-bird figures, rows of turtles and hedgehogs, human figures, and lions in nets or cages.

The Majnuna mass graves in particular appealed to public imagination and were widely featured in the news in late August and early September, including a feature in *Science* magazine, and on the websites of the BBC, National Geographic, PBS Nova, American Scientist, Le Figaro, and numerous archaeology ‘blogs’.

### *Area HH*

Excavations in this area resumed in 2006, with the long-term aim of exploring the late 3rd through 2<sup>nd</sup> millennia BC settlement at Brak. Portions of two Mitanni Period houses were excavated during 2006; and in 2007, we continued down through an early Mitanni level and into a Old Babylonian phase of occupation. The structures were domestic/ private houses throughout the sequence recovered, and a street which runs east-west through the area and towards the Mitanni palace and temple remained in use throughout the several levels identified.

The earliest phase reached belongs within the Old Babylonian Period and consists of a multi-roomed house, with at least three parallel rectangular rooms arranged from north to south (see Fig. 7). The street runs along its northern façade. Materials from this building and a subsequent “squatter” phase include large numbers of basalt grindstones, smaller numbers of bronze pins, equid figurines and bone tools.



Fig. 7: Old Babylonian House in Area HH-F.

We must thank the Director of the Hasseke Department of Antiquities, Sd. Abdul-Massih Bagdo, and our two departmental representatives, Sd. Elias Abd el-Nur and Sd. Ahmed al-Ali, for their support and assistance during the 2007 excavations. We also greatly appreciate the assistance, support and interest in the work at Brak of Dr. Bassam Jamous, Director-General of the DGAM, and of Dr. Michel al-Maqqdissi, Director of Excavations.

The Brak excavations were made possible by the generous financial support of the British School of Archaeology in Iraq, McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, Society of Antiquaries of London, Newnham College, the University of Cambridge and the University of Copenhagen.

And many thanks to the 2007 team:

Dr. Joan Oates (McDonald Institute, Cambridge)  
Mr. Ibrahim al-Alalaia (University of Aleppo)  
Dr. Carlo Colantoni (University of Cambridge)  
Ms. Sarah Comelli (University of Cambridge)  
Ms. Jill Goulder (University College London)  
Dr. Mette-Marie Hald (University of Copenhagen)  
Dr. Marco Iamoni (University of Cambridge)  
Dr. Lamy Khalidi (University of Cambridge)  
Mr. Daniel Lawrence (University of Cambridge)  
Mr. Fahd Sbahi (University of Aleppo)  
Mr. Tim Skuldboel (University of Copenhagen)  
Dr. Arek Soltysiak (University of Warsaw)  
Ms. Liesa Stertz (University of Erfurt)  
Mr. Adam Stone (University of Cambridge)  
Dr. Jill Weber (University of Pennsylvania)  
Mr. Matthew Williams (Cambridge Archaeological Unit)  
Prof. Henry Wright (University of Michigan)

*Augusta McMahon, Field Director*

### **More Mesopotamian scholarship online**

*Knowledge and Power in the Neo-Assyrian Empire*  
<<http://knp.prs.heacademy.ac.uk>>

In the May 2007 issue of the BSAI Newsletter, Karen Radner and I wrote about *Knowledge and Power in the Neo-Assyrian Empire*, which we called ‘a teaching website in the making’. The other team members are Ruth Horry and Steve Tinney. I’m happy to say that the first phase of the website is now complete, and is already getting about a thousand visitors a month. It is hosted by the project’s main funders, the Philosophy and Religious Sciences subject group of the UK Higher Education Academy at <<http://knp.prs.heacademy.ac.uk>>.

It comprises:

- (a) *Primary sources*: all 1400 scholarly letters, divinatory queries, and astrological reports first published in the *State Archives of Assyria*, volumes 4, 8, and 10, are freely available online for reading, printing, and searching. Users can also select subsets of the material to view, through searches of substantial catalogue data.
- (b) *Secondary sources*: we have provided:

- ‘Essentials’ background information: thirteen substantial illustrated essays, often based on our original research, on the political and intellectual background of the primary sources;
- Teaching resources: lecture plans and seminar outlines; ideas for essays and dissertation topics;
- Bibliography: a structured list of 170 relevant academic articles and books, nearly a quarter of which are downloadable as PDFs directly from the website (with the kind permission of the authors and publishers) or are available online through JSTOR or other repositories;
- Glossaries: accessible definitions and explanations of over of nearly a thousand technical terms and the names of people, gods, and places’
- Images: many original photographs of relevant images and objects from the collections of the British Museum, original drawings of our own, and links to relevant objects in online museum databases;
- Google Earth and Google Sky content: over a hundred files of all the terrestrial and celestial locations mentioned in the primary sources;
- As well as lists of links to other relevant sites, information about the project and the website, and detailed descriptions of how to access and search the primary sources.

We are enormously grateful to everyone who has contributed materials and assistance. If you bookmarked the development site on your web browser, please replace it with the new URL. The development site may be unstable at times over the coming year, as we construct phase 2 of the project. We cannot say yet exactly what this will consist of, as negotiations are currently underway with various potential project partners.

*The Geography of Knowledge in Assyria and Babylonia*

<<http://cdl.museum.upenn.edu/gkab>>

At the start of September, I began a new but related research project, focussing on the theoretical intellectual traditions on which the Neo-Assyrian scholars and their successors based their ideas and practices. The GKAB project is funded by the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council and is based at the Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge, and the Babylonian Section, University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. It will run until 31 August 2012. The project team comprises:

- \* Philippe Clancier (HPS, Cambridge), full-time researcher
- \* Graham Cunningham (HPS, Cambridge), part-time senior researcher
- \* Ruth Horry (Whipple Museum, Cambridge), website consultant
- \* Frances Reynolds (HPS, Cambridge and Oriental Institute, Oxford), part-time researcher
- \* Eleanor Robson (HPS, Cambridge), co-director
- \* Steve Tinney (Penn Museum, Philadelphia), co-director

In addition, we have two expert panels of editorial and historical advisors.



While many hundreds of individual scholarly works have been edited and published from cuneiform libraries, there have been almost no in-depth studies of the libraries in their entirety. Previous analyses have often decontextualised and fragmented Assyro-Babylonian scholarship into modern disciplinary categories such as 'science', 'magic', and 'religion'. This project aims to restore context and coherence to that scholarship by studying it holistically. To that end we will undertake a comparative study of four scholarly libraries for which adequate archaeological data exist:

\* the Neo-Assyrian temple library of Nabû in the royal city of Nimrud/Kalhu in northern Iraq (Wiseman and Black, *Cuneiform Texts from Nimrud*, 4 [1996]), excavated for the BSAI by Max Mallowan and colleagues in the 1950s;

\* the library found outside a priestly family house in Sultantepe/Huzirina near Harran, at the edge of the Neo-Assyrian empire (Gurney and Finkelstein, Gurney and Hulin, *Sultantepe Tablets*, 1-2 [1957, 1964]), destroyed, like the temple library, in c.612 BCE, and excavated for the BIAA by Seton Lloyd and colleagues in the early 50s;

\* the library from a private house from area Ue 18 in Uruk, owned by two separate families of *āšipu* scholars, c.450-300 BCE (Hunger, von Weiher, *Spätbabylonische Texte aus Uruk*, 1-5 [1976-1998]), and excavated by the Deutsche Orient-Gesellschaft in the late 60s-early 70s;

\* the library of Rēš, temple of the great sky god Anu-Zeus in Uruk, c.200 BCE (van Dijk and Mayer, *Baghdader Mitteilungen*, Beiheft 2 [1983]), excavated by the *DOG* in the 1960s, and related, informally excavated tablets.

The project will use open, standards-based encoding to create the *Corpus of Ancient Mesopotamian Scholarship* (CAMS). This freely available, online corpus of material from the four libraries will be critically edited according to Assyriological best practice, based on collation of the original tablets wherever possible. It will contain searchable transliterations of both manuscripts (tablets) and compositions (composite texts) as well as English translations and full bibliographies. CAMS will enable us to make quantitative analyses of the manuscripts' linguistic and orthographic features to look for small-scale and large-scale geographical and diachronic change. We hope to explain those continuities, changes, and idiosyncracies in relation to the social, intellectual, and political contexts in which the scholars were working.

*Eleanor Robson*  
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## Report from BSAI 2007 Fellow

I was given a fellowship from the British School of Archaeology in Iraq (BSAI) for two months of research at the University of Cambridge. It was the first time a fellowship was given to an academic from the University of Mosul. My being there was very useful and fruitful scientifically because I was able to achieve the following:

- I completed two articles about two long texts from the Sippar Library, reading and analyzing them and they will be published in IRAQ with Professor Andrew George. Completing such articles inside Iraq with the available techniques and references takes 6-12 months.
- I made very pure and clear copies of photos of cuneiform texts from the library of Sippar by using the scanning devices available at the Institute of Archaeology and the BSAI subsidised the printing of all seventy cuneiform texts on special paper.
- I attended three seminars about archaeological and Assyrian studies in colleges, museums and institutions of the University of Cambridge.

My time in Cambridge, included many meetings with Professor Nicholas Postgate, who specialises in Assyriology in the Faculty of Oriental Studies and who arranged the use of all the facilities inside the faculty. He promised to send any new published or rare books which could be useful to the Department of Cuneiform Studies or Archaeology on a condition that lists of these books should be donated to the University of Mosul.

Through my meetings with Dr Harriet Crawford, the Chairman of the BSAI Appeal and former BSAI Chairman, and Professor Roger Matthews, the BSAI Chairman, I gained the following agreements:

- Supplying the libraries of the Cuneiform Studies and Archaeology Departments with the new universal periodicals and series and the dictionaries of the Akkadian and Sumerian languages as soon as possible. A list of the books required and those already existing in the Central Library (Ashurbanipal Library) will be sent to the BSAI shortly so the school will be able to buy these books.
- The school promised a continuous cooperation in the future with the two departments of Cuneiform Studies and Archaeology at Mosul University in the fields of scientific and academic advice within their specialty and cultural exchange. The BSAI plans within their fellowship program of 2008 to receive another visitor from Mosul University in a fellowship in Cambridge or London universities.

Many thanks to everybody who helped me during my stay in the UK, especially: Dr Harriet Crawford, Dr Lamia Al-Gailani; Professor Nicholas Postgate; Mrs Joan Porter MacIver, Professor Andrew George; Professor Roger Matthews; Dr Eleanor Coghill; Dr Stephanie Dalley, Dr Frances Reynolds, and Mr Stuart Laidlaw.

*Professor Khalid Salim Ismael  
Head of the Department of Cuneiform Studies  
Mosul University, Iraq*

## **BSAI Member Visit to Kurdistan**

I consider myself very privileged, ever since I was a small child I have been interested in archaeology, especially that of the Middle East and Iraq, but apart from a few digs in Israel and the UK I had never had the opportunity to take it any further. In 1986 during the Iran/Iraq war I was invited to visit Iraq by friends who worked in the Australian Embassy in Baghdad and I jumped at the chance. I stayed in Baghdad for three weeks and managed to visit most of the sites which I had on my list. Babylon, Aqar Quf, Nineveh, Nimrud, Erbil, Kirkuk, Mosul, Samarra, places I had read about so often and had always dreamed of visiting. In 1991 after the uprising in Iraq following the Gulf War, I became a volunteer co-ordinator with a charity working in Kurdistan in the North of Iraq and since then I have made many trips to this wonderful country of high mountains, waterfalls, archaeological sites and friendly people.

Our organisation's headquarters is based in Sulaimaniya and I have been lucky enough to be able to visit some of the ancient monuments of which there are many in this part of the country. I have made friends in the Sulaimaniya Museum, a wonderful museum, not very big, but it has some lovely artefacts. The staff like most Kurds are friendly, welcoming and hospitable, but are desperate for help from the 'outside world'. Until two years ago, none of them had had the chance to visit any of the sites in Iraq or had the opportunity to travel outside of Kurdistan, they had no access to up to date books and very little modern equipment. My friend Carwan, a archaeological chemist, working at the Sulaimaniya museum has told me there are over six hundred sites in the Sulaimaniya area alone waiting to be excavated, including caves and rock reliefs of many periods.

The caves of Hazar Merd lie about 8km S.W. of Sulaimaniya in the Baranand Dagh. The drive from Sulaimaniya is through farming land and on dirt roads full of pot holes. It is a short steep climb, but well worth the effort as the views from the top are fantastic. There are six caves quite close together including a small open shelter with a short corridor running back from it, which is unnamed, there is also an almost identical cave which is 'the cave of the Weaver. The Dark cave was excavated in 1928 by Professor Dorothy Garrod who employed workers from the two villages situated at the bottom of the mountain. Although we passed through one village, which probably has not changed in nearly 80 years, none of my party seem to know anything about the second village. There is also the Water cave which has a number of short passages and the cave of the Cattle, which leads into a corridor merging into a very wide chamber, I'm afraid that the smell put me off entering, apparently it is filled with thousands of bats which accounts for the smell. The last cave was more of a small opening in the rock, like the first cave it does not have a name. The only reference I can find to the caves is an article entitled "The Palaeolithic of Southern Kurdistan: Excavations in the Caves of Zarzi and Hazar Merd" (1930) published in the '*Bulletin of American School of Prehistoric Research*'

The Ishkewt-i Qizqapan cave which I had the pleasure of visiting in May and October of this year, is about twenty-five feet from the ground and the rock looks as though it was been shaved so as to make it inaccessible without the staircase. There is a narrow track up a hill which is short but extremely steep. At the top there is a metal staircase with treads that are also steep. At the top of the stairs there is a platform which like the stairs is screwed into the rock. Qizqapan is thought to be about three thousand years old, the archaeologist don't know much about why it was built or for whom. It has been carved out of the rock and looks like a sepulchre. There is a shallow, open, outer cave fashioned to represent the façade and eaves of a palace, with a low door giving access to an inner chamber. The sepulchre within is excavated ten and half feet back into the rock on the same level as the outer ledge, and is not quite seven feet high. It is divided across into three chambers each with a basin about two feet deep hollowed out in the floor, that in the middle chamber being well over six feet long and the others three or four inches under. Each basin has a rim some three inches deep and could have been closed with a slab flush with the floor. Whoever carved it was a genius but it would be nice to know why and what for. The first time I visited the cave in May there was an awful smell because it appears that people have been using it as a toilet. The whole front was also covered in graffiti. Obviously a lot of people have no respect for their ancient monuments. On my recent visit in October the staff from the Sulaimaniya Museum had brought extra ladders and cleaning material and had cleaned the worst of it, but still have to finish it. The view from the entrance of the cave is spectacular. There is a wonderful description of the cave complete with an excellent drawing in a book called *Kurds, Turks, and Arabs* by C J Edmonds who was a British Political Officer and adviser to the Ministry of the Interior Iraq, in 1935-1945.

Not far from the town of Qaradagh high in the mountain range of Quopy there is a rock carving of the Akkadian King Naram-Sin who was the ruler of Sumer from about 2255 to 2218 BC, he was also known as the King of Kish. It is a long drive from Sulaimaniya through some spectacular scenery and then the road simply runs out. It is quite a climb for someone who isn't fit. The first time I made the climb I picked my way not very elegantly sometimes on hands and knees over the rocks and loose stones, I was so determined to get to the top I never had the time to look at the surroundings as I was so busy concentrating on finding a safe place for my hands and feet. It took me over half an hour to get to the relief; the last ten minutes is almost sheer rock.

This ancient King from so long ago has gazed out over these mountains for well over 4,000 years; at his feet lie 2 figures who represent his enemies. There are bullet holes over the entire relief where soldiers from the Iraqi army tried to obliterate him in 1988 during the ANFAL operations. Thankfully he is high up on the wall of rock and out of reach of serious damage. In 2006 staff from the Sulaimaniya Museum managed to bring scaffolding up and filled the bullet holes and cleaned the stone so it now looks fantastic. They have also

made a plaster cast of the relief which is now in the museum. Even higher up there are remains of a castle and a cemetery.

There are so many sites that I still have to visit, Mirquli a carved relief dated at 1,000 BC at the top of Piramagrun Mountain, the remains of an ancient fort at Bazyan, the Caves at Pala Gawra in the Bazyan area which were used by stone age man, a carved relief in the highlands, south of Darbandikhan which is known as the Tardoni image dated around 3,000 BC. There is Jarmo near Chamchamal said to be the first place that man settled and planted crops in northern Iraq and Shanidar Cave where Neanderthal people lived over forty thousand years ago and buried their dead in the cave surrounded by flowers.

Kurdistan although situated in Iraq is a safe area without any foreign troops, the people are extremely happy to welcome foreigners especially the British to their country and the Kurdish hospitality is famous. My next trip, hopefully, will be in the spring of 2008 and although I will spend most of my time working I will as usual look forward to exploring more of this fantastic country and learning its history.

*Maureen McLuckie*  
*Kurdistan Childrens Fund*  
**www.ksc-kcf.org**

## **NON BSAI NEWS & REPORTS**

### **ArtRole - Cultural Exchange, UK – Kurdistan- Iraq 2007-2009**

The BSAI sent a large number of its publications to Kurdistan under the auspices of Adalet R. Garmiany of ArtRole, who collected publications from a number of institutions to bring to Kurdistan as part of Phase II (noted below). We thought our members might be interested in learning about the work of ArtRole.

ArtRole is running a cultural exchange programme between UK and Kurdistan-Iraq, developed in three phases:

- Kurdish Contemporary Art and Culture from Iraq
- British and American contemporary artists visiting Kurdistan/ Iraq
- Exhibitions, residencies and talks

Through this programme, ArtRole hopes to help to build mutual understanding and to develop links between both cultures and regions.

Knowledge in the UK of Kurdish culture and indeed the broader heritage of the Middle East is little known. This cultural exchange programme, comprising visits, lectures, presentations and exhibitions is one of the first opportunities for a UK audience and British artists to get introduced to Kurdish culture, as well as its contemporary art scene and to broaden their awareness of modern culture in Iraq away from the dominant reporting of conflict and deprivation. The project also provides the Kurdish-Iraqi artists, public and art institutions with extensive access to British culture and

contemporary art, developing a better understanding.

Phase 1: Kurdish Contemporary Art and Culture from Iraq 16th - 28th February 2007 - A group of Kurdish artists (Wahby Rasul, Ali Raza, Sami Muemin, Man Ahmad Hamid from Kurdistan- Iraq and Afan Sediq from Germany) were invited to the UK, to meet British audience and artists, visit relevant sites and institutions to research British culture and introduce Kurdish culture and the state of art in the region. The events took place in London and Yorkshire between the 16th and the 28th of February at Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Serpentine Gallery, Ferens Gallery, Life Arts Development Agency, Royal College of Art, Slade School of Art and SOAS.

Phase 2: British and American contemporary artists visiting Kurdistan/ Iraq October 2007 - A similar programme with British and American artists traveling to Kurdistan/ Iraq is going to take place at the end of 2007. The selected artists are Anne Bean, Clare Charnley, Richard Wilson, Rob Gawthrop and Adalet R. Garmiany from the UK and Susan Meiselas from the USA. During this visit the artists will share aspects of Western contemporary art, with particular reference to current approaches of art education and the impact of new technologies.

Phase 3:• Exhibitions/ Residencies/ Talks 2008-09 - A touring exhibition of work from both regions, as well as work realised following the exchange visits will be developed for both the UK and Kurdistan/ Iraq in 2008/9. Through the exchange, resulting exhibitions, events and talks in the UK and Kurdistan/ Iraq, audiences and artists in both regions will experience contemporary work that will inevitably be different due to the cultural context from which it evolved.

**[www.artrole.org](http://www.artrole.org)**

*Funded and supported by: Arts Council England (Yorkshire), British Council Foreign and Commonwealth Office and in collaboration with the Kurdistan-UK Friendship Association [www.kukfa.org/index.html](http://www.kukfa.org/index.html)*

### **Iraqi Women's Oral History Project**

The war in Iraq has created a fast growing refugee crisis, with over a million refugees in Jordan and Syria each, and over two million internally displaced in Iraq itself. In September 2007, I traveled to Amman to spend the 2007-2008 academic year conducting oral history interviews and producing a documentary of Iraqi women refugees living in Jordan.

Too often women's experiences of war are not given value or importance when looking at the larger picture of war. The depth, breadth, and variety of their experience, not to mention important nuances and subtleties, calls for careful, focused attention. If conventional wisdom suggests Iraq is needed to politically stabilize the region, then Iraqi women are invaluable players in that process. The experiences of the Iraqi women refugees in their turbulent

generation may reveal that the realm of female influence in one generation becomes a source of cultural value and meaning in the next. Hence, understanding Iraqi women refugees may provide vital insight into the future of Iraq itself.

The nature of the oral history format allows an audience to rely on the authenticity of its narratives and the vibrancy of its videography, vividly underscoring accounts of war, disrupted lives, and attempts to find permanent resettlement. Such histories will give us a clearer understanding of the Iraqi women's attitudes toward and understanding of themselves, their fellow Iraqis, other Arabs and Arab nations, and America, Britain, and other Western nations and peoples. The oral history format also imparts the stories, beliefs, and convictions that Iraqi women refugees tell in order to create meaning, purpose and understanding of their experiences as well as their hopes for their children's futures

Women and children compose the majority of the displaced Iraqis who have fled to Jordan for safety, with the refugees now composing close to 17% of the population in Jordan (even as the total numbers of Iraqi refugees increases by 60,000/month--UNHCR statistics, Sept. 2007). Women remain the most vulnerable of the refugees, bearing the brunt of the cost of war.

*Laura Hamblin*

Dr Hamblin is an Associate Professor of English at Utah Valley State College (UVSC) located in Orem, Utah and teaches an honors course, "The Costs of War." She is a member of the Executive Committee of the UVSC Peace and Justice Studies Program and has been awarded the UVSC 2007 Ethics Fellowship. Dr. Hamblin will conduct at least 100 oral history interviews of Iraqi women refugees to be archived at the UVSC library, and will be compiling a documentary from the histories. She can be contacted through her email: [hamblila@uvsc.edu](mailto:hamblila@uvsc.edu). Transcripts of some of the orals histories can read on Dr. Hamblin's blog: [womeninthedesert@blogspot.org](http://womeninthedesert.blogspot.org))

Editor's note: I met Laura Hamblin while staying at the American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR) in Amman in October 2007 and felt that her work is important to share with BSAI members.

**Volunteer Wanted for BSAI Membership.** If you are interested in helping out the BSAI with your time - 1/2 day a week at most on maintaining the BSAI membership records and mailings, please contact the Joan Porter MacIver, the BSAI Administrator. Travel expenses can be reimbursed if requested and time can be flexible. The work- load is more intense at certain time of the year when mailings are required and the work will be done at the BSAI's office space at the British Academy.



## FORTHCOMING & RECENT BSAI PUBLICATIONS

### *Historical Topography of Samarra - Samarra Studies I*

by Alastair Northedge –

Reprint with revisions (December 2007) in a paperback version.

Originally in conjunction with the Max van Berchem Foundation, the BSAI published Alastair Northedge's *Historical Topography of Samarra* and it is being reprinted in a paperback version with a new preface commenting on Samarra's recent tragedies and with some revisions. This is the first fundamentally new work to come out in half a century on one of the world's most famous Islamic archaeological sites: Samarra in Iraq. This capital of the Abbasid caliphs in the 9th century is not only one of the largest urban sites worldwide, but also gives us the essence of what the physical appearance of the caliphate was like, for early Baghdad is long lost. It was known not only for its famous spiral minarets, but also for its Golden Dome over the tombs of the Imams, and its long avenues of mud-brick architecture - the latter still visible, although the Golden Dome was horrifically destroyed in a bombing in February 2006 and its two remaining minarets in another bombing in June 2007. With the end of Saddam's regime in Iraq, there is renewed interest in the Abbasid caliphate "the Golden Age of Early Islam", rightly seen as the foundation of modern Iraq.

Northedge sets out to explain the history and development of this enormous site, 45 km long, using both archaeological and textual sources to weave a new interpretation of how the city worked: its four caliphal palaces, four Friday mosques, cantonments for the military and for the palace servants, houses for the men of state and generals. Samarra is particularly strong on the archaeology of sport: polo grounds, courses for horse-racing, and hunting reserves. After treating the origins of the Abbasid city under the Sasanians, the author then analyses each sector of the city, and explains why it was abandoned at the end of the 9th century. The volume is abundantly illustrated with aerial photographs of the site. This is the first of a series of Samarra Studies; in the second, *The Archaeological Atlas of Samarra*, the archaeological remains will be catalogued, and in the third, *Pottery from Samarra*, the ceramic finds from the archaeological survey will be published.

Alastair Northedge is Professor of Islamic Art and Archaeology at Université de Paris 1. He has worked in Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, and conducted projects at Amman in Jordan, and Ana in Iraq, in addition to Samarra. He is author of *Studies on Roman and Islamic Amman*, and joint author of *Excavations at Ana*, with Andrina Bamber and Michael Roaf.

426 pages; 91 plates; 116 figs. A4 size. PB.

ISBN 978-0-903472-22-7 (Price £40)

***Languages of Iraq, ancient and modern*** Edited by Nicholas Postgate

For all five thousand years of its history Iraq has been home to a mixture of languages, spoken and written, and the same is true today. In November 2003, to celebrate the country's rich diversity and long history as a centre of civilization the British School presented a series of talks by experts on each of the major languages of Iraq and their history, and this illustrated volume brings these now to a wider public.

Iraq's languages come from different linguistic families - Semitic, Indo-European, and agglutinative languages like Sumerian, Hurrian and Turkish. Some, although long dead, have a prime place in the history of the Old World: Sumerian, probably the first language to be written and the vehicle of cuneiform scholarship for more than two millennia, and Akkadian, the language of Hammurapi and the Epic of Gilgamesh, and used across the Near East for administration and diplomacy. The history of Aramaic is even longer, stretching back to overlap with Akkadian before 1000 BC. It survives, precariously, in both written and spoken forms, being one of four languages spoken in Iraq today. Of these Arabic as a major world language has often been described, but here we have an account of the vernacular Iraqi Arabic dialects, and the descriptions of Iraqi Kurdish and Turkman are unique, detailed and authoritative.

Contents: Nicholas Postgate (Editor), *Introduction*; Jeremy Black(†), *Sumerian*; Andrew George, *Babylonian and Assyrian: A history of Akkadian*; David Hawkins, *Hurrian*; Alan Millard, *Early Aramaic*; Geoffrey Khan, *Aramaic in the medieval and modern periods*; Eleanor Coghill, *Fieldwork in Neo-Aramaic*; Clive Holes, *Colloquial Iraqi Arabic*; Christine Allison, *Kurdish in Iraq*; Christiane Bulut, *Iraqi Turkman*.

Pp. viii, 187. 32 maps and illustrations. ISBN 978-0-903472-21-0 (Price £15)

Published by the British School of Archaeology in Iraq July 2007 with subventions from The Charlotte Bonham-Carter Trust and the British Council IRAQ. BSAI members receive a 20% deduction on BSAI publications.

**All BSAI publications**, except the Journal *IRAQ* are available from:

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**Back Issues of the Journal *IRAQ***

Contact the BSAI ([bsai@britac.ac.uk](mailto:bsai@britac.ac.uk)) for orders of back issues of *IRAQ* from Vol. LI ff. Earlier issues and Vol. LVI-LVIII are now available from Schmidt Periodicals GmbH and Periodicals Service Company [psc@periodicals.com](mailto:psc@periodicals.com) or [www.periodicals.com](http://www.periodicals.com) along with some of the later out of print volumes.

## NON BSAI PUBLICATIONS

*Underground to Overseas: The Story of Petroleum Development Oman* by Sir Terence Clark

Oman's hydrocarbon reserves lie deep under the country's far Interior. Finding, extracting and bringing these to the point of export have required all the resourcefulness of PDO's teams of geologists, surveyors and drillers, and the most advanced engineering techniques of the time.

In *Underground to Overseas*, Sir Terence Clark tells PDO's extraordinary story, from the first frustrated attempts to discover oil to the Company's glowing prospects in its 40th anniversary year. First person accounts of key moments are interwoven with the Sir Terence's compelling narrative, vividly evoking key moments in the Company's history.

Illustrated throughout, *Underground to Overseas* captures this spirit and sets out the chronicle of an outstandingly successful partnership between a commercial enterprise and a nation playing its part in the world. 130 p HB (Price £35 – 10% discount for on line orders at <http://www.stacey-international.co.uk/>)

Sir Terence Clark - After graduating from the Middle East Centre for Arab Studies (MECAS), Sir Terence Clark spent much of his career as a British diplomat in the Middle East and has been closely associated with the Sultanate of Oman for over 30 years. He has written widely and co-authored several books on different aspects of the history and politics of the Middle East, including *A Short History of Oman* (2001) and he is a BSAI Council member.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Land Tenure and Social Stratification in Ancient Mesopotamia: Third Millennium Sumer before the Ur III Dynasty* by: Eric L.Cripps, BAR S1676, 2007; ISBN: 9781407301136 , PB Price: £35.00 online at [www.hadrianbooks.co.uk](http://www.hadrianbooks.co.uk) or at the David Brown Book Co. (US\$ 96.50) at [www.dbbconline.com](http://www.dbbconline.com) or [www.oxbowbooks.com](http://www.oxbowbooks.com).

This is a new book by BSAI member Dr Eric Cripps. It is a detailed investigation of the nature of land tenure in southern Mesopotamia in the 3rd millennium BC, using evidence culled from archives excavated at Fara and Isin, in the Early Dynastic, and Nippur in the Akkadian period. It will be a significant contribution to the on-going debates about the relationship between private, communal and institutional land holdings.

Information about the book and where to get it is also at [www.archaeopress.com](http://www.archaeopress.com). Archaeopress , Gordon House , 276 Banbury Road Oxford OX2 7ED England tel/fax +44 (0) 1865 311914 e-mail: [bar@archaeopress.com](mailto:bar@archaeopress.com)

## **BOOK DONATIONS FOR THE BSAI LIBRARY**

*The Assyrian Sacred Tree – A History of Interpretations* by Dr Mariana Giovino. Collection: Orbis Biblicus et Orientalis (OBO), volume 230 2007 X-248 p. text + 64 p. figures (Price Fr. 98) ISBN 978-3-7278-1602-4 Academic Press Fribourg available at <http://www.paulusedition.ch/catalog/search/index.php> **230**

The so-called Assyrian sacred tree is the most discussed motif in the historiography of Assyrian art. It is familiar from the reliefs in the throneroom of Assurnasirpal II at Nimrud, but it has a family of close relatives that appear in a variety of other media. To date, no contemporary text has been found that mentions this ‘tree,’ and, as a result, scholars have not yet arrived at a consensus on its iconography. Nevertheless great efforts have been made to decipher the symbol, ever since A. H. Layard recovered the Nimrud reliefs in the mid-nineteenth century. This book traces the intricate history of the iconographic debate, from 1849 to the present. Scholars have tended towards three principal interpretations of the sacred tree: that it represents the ‘tree of life’ known from Genesis, or a stylized date palm, or a constructed cult object. The ‘tree of life’ theory has had few takers since the late nineteenth century (although it has recently enjoyed a small revival); the date palm interpretation, on the other hand, has dominated the discussion since 1890, when E. B. Tylor proposed that winged figures standing on either side of the ‘tree’ were fertilizing it. This analysis has had a number of serious objections levelled against it from the beginning, but it managed to thrive, primarily because it built up a critical scholarly mass early on in the debate. The third of the main interpretations, the cult object theory, also fell victim to the date palm theory in the middle of the last century, and the details of its argument have been largely forgotten by recent contributors to the debate. In the author’s view it is the most promising of the three, and she builds upon the arguments of earlier cult object theorists using archaeological and textual material. This book, then, is a critical historiography, which both surveys the vast literature on this topic and intervenes in the debate. It will be found invaluable by anyone who wishes to study this enigmatic motif, and it will also be of interest to historians of Assyrian art and religious cult. And, as an analysis of the ways in which a scholarly debate can fall victim to an implausible consensus, it will provide a useful test case for students in the growing field of historiography.

**Mariana Giovino** (b. 1964) is an honorary research fellow in the History department at University College London. She completed her Ph.D. in the History of Art department at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and previously completed an M.A. in History of Art and one in Assyriology at the same institution.

**DONATION OF JOURNALS FOR IRAQ:** Mr Michael Rice has kindly donated a number of Journals to the BSAI to send on to Iraq: *Palēorient*, *Antike Kunst* and some BAR International Series Publications.

## **BSAI LECTURES & FUTURE EVENTS**

**5 December 2007 – BSAI Appeal Event at 6 p.m.** with **Rory Stewart OBE**, Author of *Occupational Hazards* & former Deputy Governor of Maysan and Dhi Qar Provinces- BSAI Appeal Talk on **‘My Time Governing in Iraq’** at The British Academy, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH (Tickets required)

**12 December 2007 – BSAI AGM at 6 p.m.** and Lecture by Professor Roger Matthews on 'Mesopotamian Discovery: 75 years of the British School of Archaeology in Iraq' to commemorate the BSAI's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary at J.Z. Young Lecture Theatre, Anatomy Building, University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT and the reception will follow in the Wilkins Old Refectory. (PLEASE NOTE VENUE.)

**Saturday 2 February 2008 – The Sumerians: Iraq's First Civilization**  
Sumer was the birthplace of the world's first cities and earliest writing. Archaeology and cuneiform inscriptions reveal sophisticated cities such as Uruk and Ur in the period 3500-2000 BC. In Ur's Royal Cemetery retinues of over 60 attendants and rich grave goods attest to elaborate funerary practices. This joint Birkbeck and British School of Archaeology in Iraq study day is the third in the Mesopotamia series. Organised and chaired by Dr Frances Reynolds, University of Oxford. Speakers: Dr Paul Collins, Dr Harriet Crawford, Professor Roger Matthews; and Dr Eleanor Robson. ZIPANG Performance – The Myth of Inana and Enki.

Please use the enrolment form available on the BSAI website or contact the Archaeology Desk on: FCE Archaeology, Birkbeck College, 26 Russell Sq. London WC1B 5DQ; tel: 020 7631 6627; e-mail: [archaeology@fce.bbk.ac.uk](mailto:archaeology@fce.bbk.ac.uk)

**13 March 2008** at 6 p.m. – BSAI Lecture by Dr Charles Tripp on ‘What can Iraq's History Tell Us About Its Future?’ at the British Academy

**18-19 April 2008 – "What has the Middle East done for us?"** A two-day conference at SOAS, London, Organised by BRISMES in collaboration with BSAI and other learned societies. More details will be circulated soon.  
<http://www.dur.ac.uk/brismes/>

**5 June 2008** BSAI Appeal Talk **William Dalrymple** on **'From the Holy Mountain: A Journey in the Shadow of Byzantium'** jointly with the British Museum's Department of the Middle East at the British Museum (Details tbc)

**12 June 2008** Bonham Carter Forum and Lecture by **Professor Elizabeth Stone** on **‘The structure of settlement in Mesopotamian cities, towns and villages’** at the British Academy (Time tbc)

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- Invitations to three BSAI lectures and receptions in London (without fees)
- Invitations to BSAI special events and joint study days as available (fees may apply)
- BSAI Annual Report and Accounts
- Full voting rights at the BSAI AGM in person or by postal ballot

### How to Become a Member of BSAI

Please post a completed Membership Request Form **and** accompanying Membership Payment Form to the Administrator. Our Membership year starts in January and we send renewal notices the previous November. You are very welcome to become a Member at any time during the year and will receive the appropriate journals for that year.

Further information, including discounts for Members resident in Iraq:

Mrs JP MacIver, BSAI Administrator, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH, UK.

Tel: +44 (0)20 7969 5274 Fax: +44 (0)20 7969 5401 Email: bsai@britac.ac.uk

Website: www.britac.ac.uk/institutes/iraq

**BRITISH SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN IRAQ**  
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Co-opted member of Publications Committee: Professor Andrew George

Co-opted members of the Development Committee:

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Mr Peter Davies  
Dr Mariana Giovino  
Dr Lamia Al-Gailani Werr

Co-opted member of the Working Group: Dr Charles Tripp

BSAI Committee Abbreviations:

A= Member of the Appeal Committee

D = Member of Development Committee

F = Member of Finance Committee

P = Member of Publications Committee

R = Member of Fieldwork and Research Committee

W= Member of the Working Group

# **BRITISH SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN IRAQ**

(Gertrude Bell Memorial)

**The School was established in 1932 to promote, support and undertake research in Iraq and neighbouring countries. The School's academic coverage includes the subjects of archaeology, history, anthropology, geography, language and other related domains from the earliest times until the present.**

## **BSAI RESEARCH GRANTS**

The School invites funding applications twice a year for research grants and grants for the organisation of academic conferences. All applications and references must be received by 15 April or 15 October in any given year. Grants are available to support research on Iraq, neighbouring countries, and the Gulf. Awards will normally fall within a limit of £1,500, though more substantial awards may be made in exceptional cases.

Applicants must be residents of the UK or, exceptionally, other individuals whose academic research closely coincides with that of the BSAI. Two academic references are required. For student applicants one referee must be your academic advisor. (If your advisor is a member of the BSAI Research Committee, a third referee must be selected.) No grants are made to support academic fees and no applicant may receive funding from the British Academy and the BSAI for the same research proposal.

While the School has traditionally focused on archaeology and languages, applications are very welcome in any of the fields mentioned above, on any period from prehistory to the present day. Applicants will be informed of the decision of Council concerning their grant application by early July or early January respectively.

In addition to individual research grant requests, the School welcomes outline applications at any time for larger in research projects on Iraq. The School will offer assistance in drafting a full research proposal to submit jointly to other funding bodies. For more information about this scheme, please contact the BSAI Secretary.

Details of the requirements and conditions of grants, as well as an application form are available from the BSAI Secretary, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH or on the BSAI web-site:

**<http://www.britac.ac.uk/institutes/iraq/>**

Tel. + 44 (0) 20 7969 5274 or Fax. + 44 (0) 20 7969 5401

e-mail: <[bsai@britac.ac.uk](mailto:bsai@britac.ac.uk)>

Reg. Charity No. 219948

# **BSAI DEVELOPMENT GRANTS**

**BSAI was established in 1932 to support and undertake research in Iraq and neighbouring countries. BSAI's coverage includes anthropology, archaeology, geography, history, language, and other related domains from the earliest times until the present day.**

## **CURRENT DEADLINE 31 JANUARY 2008**

Grants are available to support development projects and events, such as study days and popular publications, that relate to Iraq and neighbouring countries and to the areas of interest covered by BSAI.

A Development Grant will not normally be for more than £500, although more substantial grants may be made in exceptional cases.

Applicants need to submit an application form and two references to the BSAI Administrator. Applicants must be residents of the UK.

BSAI considers applications for Development Grants twice yearly. The deadlines for applications and references are 15 April and 15 October each year. You will be informed of the decision about your application by early July or early January respectively. In special circumstances BSAI is willing to consider urgent applications at other times.

This is a new BSAI initiative, so there is a special deadline of 31 January 2008 for the first round of grant applications; applicants will be advised of the grant decisions by late March 2008.

For queries, detailed grant conditions, and an application form please see:

BSAI Website: **[www.britac.ac.uk/institutes/iraq/](http://www.britac.ac.uk/institutes/iraq/)**

or contact: Mrs Joan Porter MacIver, BSAI Administrator,  
10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH, UK

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